

## **RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED**

**116.122.16**

**REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF ALBANY'S STANCES ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION STATUS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DIVISIVE AND  
DESTRUCTIVE RHETORIC ESPOUSED IN THE 2016  
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.**

**Council Members Fahey, Applrys, Golby and Kornegay introduce the following:**

**Resolution Number 116.122.16R**

**REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF ALBANY'S STANCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION STATUS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DIVISIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE RHETORIC ESPOUSED IN THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany has a long, proud history of upholding human rights and promoting policies that protect our residents, environment, communities and way of life; and there is great value in reaffirming the principles that form the foundation of who we are as a city;

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 presidential campaign in the United States of America was widely viewed as uncommonly divisive and lacking in civility culminating in the election on November 8, 2016 of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, throughout the presidential campaign beliefs and proposals were espoused that would specifically undermine the safety and rights of immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ individuals, people of color, women, and people with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, comments were made to the effect that all Muslims should be registered due to a risk of terrorism and this is a direct contradiction to our nation, state and city's belief in religious freedom;

**WHEREAS**, there was angry rhetoric in the campaign suggesting that women should be punished for seeking abortions and that abortion should be outlawed except in extreme instances despite the fact that federal law has been in place since 1972 allowing women access to abortion;

**WHEREAS**, there is a reported increase in incidents of racially motivated, Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate crimes including vandalism, threats and intimidation spurred on by bigoted rhetoric in the presidential campaign and election;

**WHEREAS**, there is great fear among many that the rights and safety of individuals who were targeted throughout the presidential campaign will continue to be threatened and undermined;

**WHEREAS**, the rhetoric in the campaign was antithetical to many of the rights, protections and values City of Albany residents believe in, cherish, and have embedded in law;

**WHEREAS**, Albany passed non-binding legislation in 2009 that called on city officials to refrain from all unnecessary measures concerning an individual's immigration status due to it being a federal matter and to support a welcoming and compassionate environment for immigrants and their families within our city and its institutions;

**WHEREAS**, Albany passed a comprehensive human rights ordinance in 1992 that declares “...*that the City has the responsibility to ensure that every individual within its boundaries is afforded an equal opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life, free from violation of basic civil and human rights, and that discriminatory practices adversely affecting the equality of opportunity threaten the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants;*”

**WHEREAS**, comments and proposals calling climate change a hoax were made repeatedly in the presidential campaign along with threats to remove the US from the Paris climate accord, dismantle the Clean Power Plan and slash renewable energy funding; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, Albany is proud of its reputation as a city that assists those in need and welcomes people from throughout the world, whose hopes and dreams are to live lives free of oppression. Albany views such values as bedrock principles of our city, state and nation and will make every effort to uphold them in the face of oppressive and/or aggressive stances that are counter to these beliefs; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany remains firmly against real or perceived efforts to persecute individuals on the basis of their religion, ethnicity, nation of origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany will uphold women’s equality and rights, whether in healthcare, the workplace, or in the home; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, the City of Albany strongly disavows the view that climate change is a hoax and will continue its efforts to aggressively address climate change. Albany has previously declared that climate change is one of the most significant social, environmental, and economic challenges facing our society today. Albany has comprehensively addressed climate change in its Albany 2030 Comprehensive Plan and is designated as a New York State Climate Smart Community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the locally elected federal, state, and county officials.

**To: Gerald Campbell, Acting City Clerk**  
**From: Bill Kelly, Deputy Corporation Counsel**  
**Re: Request for Common Council Legislation**  
**Supporting Memorandum**  
**Date: December 9, 2016**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 116.122.16R**

**TITLE**

**RESOLUTION OF COMMON COUNCIL REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF ALBANY'S  
STANCES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION STATUS AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT IN LIGHT OF RECENT DIVISIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE  
RHETORIC ESPOUSED IN THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.**

**GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION**

The recently concluded 2016 presidential campaign in the United States of America was divisive and lacking in civility. Throughout the campaign beliefs and proposals were espoused that undermine the safety and rights of immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ individuals, people of color, women, and people with disabilities. Also, the completely false view that climate change is a hoax was widely put forth placing our lives and futures at risk.

The City of Albany has taken strong stances on human rights, immigration status and the environment and it is important to reaffirm and promote these views at a time when they are being both questioned and discredited.

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